WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Founded December 19, 1857 OCTOBER 1976

WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

BACH, BOTSFORD FAMILY POSSESSIONS GIVEN TO WCHS BY DORIS ANNA BACH OF KALAMAZOO, A DESCENDANT

Possessions of two old Ann Arbor families are included in a large collection recently donated to the Washtenaw County Historical Society by a descendant, Doris Anna Bach, of Kalamazoo.

It includes furniture, china, books and papers from the Bach and Botsford families, Stuart Thayer, curator of WCHS collections, said. It was appraised at $4,000.

Miss Bach, a retired teacher, was the daughter of Waldo Bach and a niece of Philip and Anna Botsford Bach. Philip ran the business that is now Muehlig's Dry Goods and was on the school board. His wife was active in local affairs. Upon her husband's death she succeeded him on the school board and even ran the schools for a time when there was no superintendent.

The Anna Botsford Bach Home or "Old Ladies Home" at 1422 W. Liberty St. grew out of one of the organizations she founded. She was descended from Elnathan Botsford who settled in 1825 on the present site of Concordia College. Her papers are included in the collection.

Furniture in the collection was in the Bach home on S. Main St. The site in the 400 block is now a parking lot.

DID YOU FORGET TO PAY YOUR 1976 WCHS DUES?

Membership Chairman Rosemary Whelan finds that a number of WCHS members have apparently overlooked paying their 1976 dues.

The dues are $3 for an individual and $6 for a couple. They may be sent to Mrs. E. P. Whelan, 3475 Brentwood Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

Your interest and support is appreciated by the Society. We hope you will continue your membership. Thanks.

FLORA BURT WILL SPEAK ON 'OLD DAYS IN DETROIT'

Flora Burt, treasurer of the Genealogy Section and a descendant of some old Detroit families, will speak about "Old Days in Detroit and Michigan" at the Genealogy Section meeting Sunday, Oct. 24, at the home of Prof. and Mrs. Leigh Anderson, 1120 Lincoln Ave., Ann Arbor.

The meeting will begin at 2:30 p.m., but a help session for beginning researchers will begin at 1 p.m. as usual.

GENEALOGY SECTION OFFERS SPEAKERS TO LOCAL GROUPS

In an effort to encourage more interest in family history, the WCHS Genealogy Section has announced a list of speakers available to talk to other groups.

They are Alloa Anderson, "How to Find Revolutionary Ancestors," telephone 663-2128; Margaret Sias, "History of Mill Creek Farms and Families," 475-1076; Ralph Muncy, a slide talk on family history, 663-3761; Harold Jones, "Family History," 475-7278; and Polly Bender, "Ten Steps in Climbing Your Family Tree," 668-6925.

There is no charge for talks in or near the county. Only expenses would be charged for longer trips.

PROF. LEWIS WILL GIVE SLIDE TOUR OF FORD MILLS AT OCTOBER WCHS MEETING

Remember when Henry Ford, the founder of Ford Motor Co., rebuilt or restored old mills and built small factories in several of the little towns in and around Washtenaw County?

David L. Lewis, Professor of business history in the U-M School of Business Administration, will present a slide tour of Ford's village industries at the October meeting of WCHS.

The meeting will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in Liberty Hall at Ann Arbor Federal Savings & Loan, Liberty at Division Sts., Ann Arbor.

Prof. Lewis is the author of "The Public Image of Henry Ford" published recently.

BARN PAINTINGS IDENTIFIED

You may recall President Thomas F. Lacy's mention of the barn paintings visible from U. S. 23 between Hartland and Fenton.

They have now been identified as Paul Revere and Baldassare Castiglione. The later is from a sixteenth century painting by Raphael Sanzio. The young artist, who prefers the alias Ziggy Grabowski, received a grant from a national endowment for the arts to buy paint and ladders for the project.

A BETTER IDEA

"The latest improvement on the Ford is a strong horseshoe magnet mounted in the rear axle which picks up parts that drop off while the car is running."

From "Ford Smiles, All the Best Current Jokes About a Rattling Good Car," by Carleton B. Case, Shrewsbury Publishing Co., Chicago, 1917.

ON LONG ISLAND

PRE-1865 VILLAGE RESTORED

Restoring a pre-Civil War village on Long Island was the topic at the September meeting of the Washtenaw County Historical Society.

Robert Gamble, executive director of the county parks and recreation department here, previously held a similar position in Nassau County, Long Island, where he directed the Old Bethpage Village restoration.

He showed slides of the village with its crossroads stores and an inn where visitors can refresh themselves with sarsaparilla (root beer) and pretzels at the "bar."

New England salt-box style houses mingle with curved roof Dutch homes, reflecting the mixed Dutch and English heritage on Long Island.

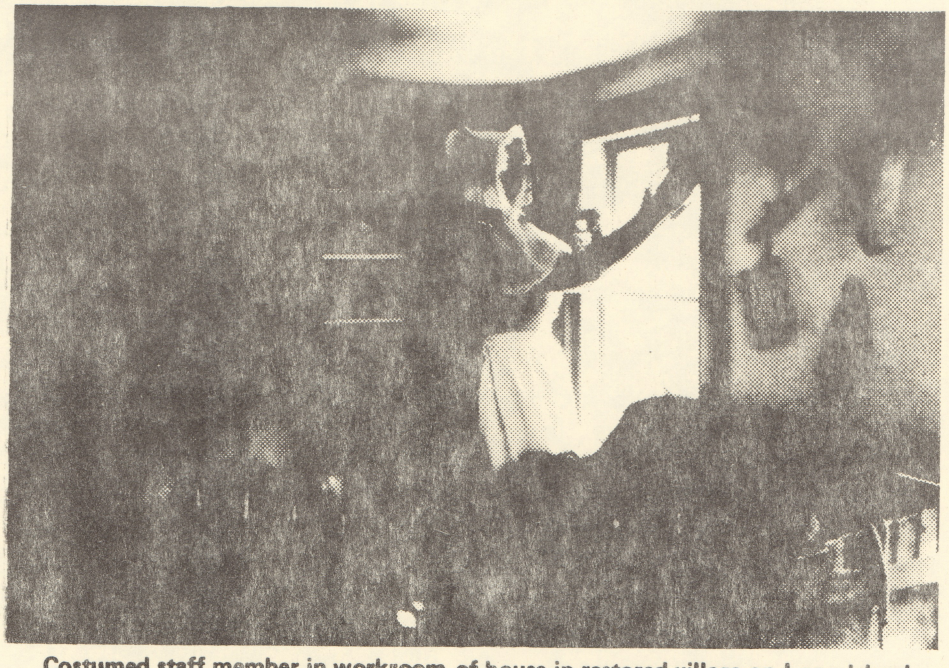
Visitors can see costumed craftsmen ply their trade—the blacksmith, the cobbler, the hatmaker and broom-maker—while women go about household activities, perhaps baking in a beehive oven or scalding chickens.

Visitors may also ride in a horse-drawn wagon around the village. They can see the Powell farm with animals grazing in the fields, hay in the barn and seasonal activities such as cider making. The Powell house and one outbuilding are the only original buildings on the park site. All other buildings have been moved there.

The Long Island fair which was going "nowhere," he said, is now held as an old-fashioned fair at the village. They have such things as oxen and a straight-furrow plowing contest as well as 4-H and other exhibits.

How did the village come about?

Most other restored or reconstructed villages are private ventures, Gamble said, but this one was financed by the county.



Costumed staff member in workroom of house in restored village on Long Island.

Nassau County was in a fortunate financial position. It had no bonded indebtedness. After World War II, the population tripled from 400,000 to about one-and-a-half million and Grumman Aircraft had its headquarters there.

The county, bounded by New York City on its west border, bought 175 acres of park land on its east border. Then an old Methodist church, founded in 1856, was offered to the county. It was moved to the park to preserve it and from that the idea of a village grew.

Other houses and buildings were offered until they had more offers than they could use.

There are many problems and challenges in such a project, Gamble found. One of the first was moving the buildings. Sometimes it was necessary to dismantle an upper floor to get the building under a low highway overpass. The Noon Inn was taken apart stick by stick and rebuilt at the site, just as it was except for replacement of rotten wood.

A beehive oven, built of stone and mortar, was so heavy it broke the derricks. They did succeed in moving it intact. It took some looking to find an old outhouse for the village.

Long Island has a 300-year history of white settlement, Gamble noted, and a date had to be chosen for the restoration. There is nothing after 1865 in the village. Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts is restored to about 1820, he noted.

Much research was necessary to find out what a village of that time was like. They found that such villages usually clustered around a crossroads. The roads are "soil cement," Gamble said. After a brief trial of a short stretch of plank road, a pre-Civil War road building innovation, they gave up on it because it didn't hold up long.

When they wanted farm animals they had to find out the kinds of sheep, cattle and chickens that were raised then. They had to find authentically-styled wagons before they could have horsedrawn rides. Only the Amish at Intercourse, Pa., still make such wagons, they found.

In restoring the buildings they had to find out what kinds of

Pre-Revolutionary Lawrence house was moved from near LaGuardia Airport to Old Bethpage Village.

hardware, paint, wallpaper and furnishings were used. They found a place in Pennsylvania where they could get hardware. Many layers of paint were scraped to find the colors probably in use then. In the attic of one house they found some original carpet rolled up. They reinstalled it on the floor.

The whole restoration will take several years. An organization of friends of the project have helped with the cost of furnishing the buildings with authentic and appropriate antiques.

The buildings range from the Minne Schenck house, restored to about 1760, an example of Dutch architecture, to the Layton store and Bach blacksmith shop, both circa 1865.

The homes are mainly those of common people representing a cross-section of trades likely and necessary in such a village. The pre-Revolutionary Hewlett house, when restored, will represent a more elegant style of life. They were Tories during the Revolution.

The most prominent person's home is that of Peter Cooper, circa 1815, when he was a newly married young inventor at Hempstead, L. I. Later he designed and built the first steam locomotive built in America in 1830. He called it the "Tom Thumb." He was first to use the Bessemer steel process in the U.S. in 1856, was instrumental in laying the Atlantic cable and founded Cooper Union, an educational institution in New York City.

Giving a restoration job to a low bidder doesn't work, Gamble found. There is no way of knowing how much material will have to be replaced. "Cost plus" contracts, usually anathema, are necessary in this case, he said.

A modern reception center with cafeteria, gift shop, restrooms, theater and offices, is screened by trees from the village. A restroom building in the village is modern inside but looks weathered and old on the outside in keeping with the village.

THE WAY IT WAS IN OCTOBER, 1876

"The Ann Arbor Courier," a weekly newspaper, strictly Republican, favored Rutherford B. Hayes in the upcoming election against Samuel J. Tilden, Democrat, and devoted much of its space to politics. But the big United States Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia was still news, too.

"That silly lie about Governor Hayes and the $400 he kept from a soldier's relative has been retracted by the 'Cleveland Plain Dealer' and an apology has been made by the 'Cincinnati Enquirer' for publishing the same. But the 'Free Press' continues to harp on it right along, as it does upon Grantism," the editor said.

"Webber, the reformer (!) candidate for Governor on the Democratic ticket, acknowledges himself a Know Nothing. He says, however, that when he joined he was ignorant of the character of the organization and withdrew shortly afterward!" (Maybe he was "brainwashed.")

The editor noted that "Instead of 'Westward Ho!' the cry is 'To the Centennial Go!' Thousands were doing it daily, he said. Professor Steere was delayed in returning to the University a couple of days because of a large number of Centennial excursion trains.

"Successful Michigander exhibitors" included the Ann Arbor Board of Education, pupils work; E. J. Knowlton, a bathing tub; and the U-M, microscopic exhibits.

If you couldn't go yourself, you could see 200 of the most interesting sights at "Bigelow's Photographic Panorama" at Hangsterfer's Hall for 25 cents. The views were "thrown upon the screen fifteen feet square."

Or you could hear Professor Moses Coit Tyler's lecture, "The Humorous Element in the American Revolution."

From "The Ann Arbor Courier," weekly issues of October, 1876, in the Michigan Historical Collections in the U-M Bentley Library.

LOOKING FOR A GIFT IDEA?
HOW ABOUT 'THE WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS'?

For $3 a year you can subscribe for a friend and add him or her to the membership list as well. ($6 for husband and wife.)

To: Name

Address

City State Zipcode

From: Name

Address

City State Zipcode

Send to: Mrs. E. P. Whelan, Membership Chairman,
3475 Brentwood, Ann Arbor, Mi. 48105

COUNTY CALENDAR

CHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Prof. Kingsbury Marzolf, U-M professor of architecture, will speak at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 8, at the Congregational Church.

MILAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Meets third Wednesday of month at 7:30 p.m. at the Milan Community House.

SALEM HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Will meet at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at Greenfield Village. After luncheon and their meeting they will tour the village.

SALINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Jan Frank, president of the Saline Historical Commission, will talk about the commission's historic home survey at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, in the Blue Lounge at Saline High School.

The Commission has produced a 46-page paperback book, "Saline, Its Past and Its Future." It is now on sale for $3 at City Hall, Saline banks and at "The Saline Reporter" office.

The historical society and commission are working jointly on an oral history project. They particularly want more information about Saline at the turn of the century.

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Antique dolls and authentic American Indian weaving will be shown at the museum from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 7. Mrs. Aaron Nathan of Manchester, who has a collection of more than 200 dolls, will bring some dolls and talk about them. Judith Hartman of Milan will demonstrate and discuss weaving. The museum is at 220 N. Huron Street.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED

Some volunteers are needed for a few hours each month to help put out "Washtenaw Impressions."

An assistant is needed in keylining and another in typesetting. Typesetting is done on a special typewriter which anyone who can type can easily learn to use. Keylining is basically cutting and pasting the set type on page forms for printing.

We are indebted to volunteers Anna Thorsch and Dorothy Wood who have divided keylining duties for the past two years. Mrs. Thorsch will continue but Mrs. Wood would like to retire. Our typesetter, Mary Lammers of Drury, Lacy, Inc., is unable to continue because of other responsibilities.

We are also indebted to Laurie McKenzie, formerly of Ann Arbor Federal, who has printed the paper until now. She has taken a job elsewhere. Our new printer at Ann Arbor Federal is Cyn Klingler.

If you might be interested in helping or have more questions, please telephone President Thomas F. Lacy at 662-5593 or Editor Alice Ziegler at 663-8826.

NEW MARKERS DEDICATED FOR JOHN, SARAH TERHUNE

The graves of one of Washtenaw's Revolutionary soldiers, John Terhune, and his wife, Sarah Vreeland Terhune, have new markers to help preserve their memory.

The new markers were dedicated October 10 by the Sarah Caswell Angell and Ypsilanti chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Terhunes are buried in Pioneer Cemetery near Packard and Carpenter Roads. The old markers remain but are deteriorating.

STUART THAYER TO TALK AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Because of Thanksgiving, the WCHS November meeting will be at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at Liberty Hall.

Stuart Thayer, curator of WCHS collections, will speak about the oldest businesses in Michigan.

Editor: Alice Ziegler, 663-8826
Keylining: Anna Thorsch and Dorothy Wood
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Washtenaw County Historical Society Meeting
THURSDAY
OCT. 28th 1976
8:00 P.M.
LIBERTY HALL
ANN ARBOR FEDERAL SAVINGS
LIBERTY AT DIVISION

Miss Eileen Harrison
322 E. Cross St.
Ypsilanti, Mi. 48197